

This day—a wonderful, vigorous celebration of the progress and possibilities for equal opportunity—must also include an equally vigorous commitment to continue the fight. Now is the time to act on our understanding that having a physical or mental disability is a part of the human experience. We must work to fully implement the provisions of the ADA and to see that these and related laws are aggressively enforced in our schools and workplaces, in our national government and local councils. Most important, we must finally overcome the remaining handicaps of prejudice and stereotype. Discrimination, ignorance, intolerance—these barriers are a far greater tragedy than any common limitation of the human mind or body. And it is only in overcoming these that America will truly be worthy of its people.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 1994, as the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 27, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 29.

Remarks by Telephone Relay With Glenn Anderson of Gallaudet University

July 27, 1994

The President. Dr. Anderson? Good morning. I want to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as the Chair of the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees. I also want to thank you for your great career

in rehabilitation work, and your earlier help to me when I served as Governor.

I'm glad we can use this telephone network today because I know what an important link it is to millions of Americans.

Go ahead.

Dr. Anderson. Good morning, Mr. President. Thank you very much for your kind words. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to speak with you this morning. Thank you for agreeing to make this relay call. Also, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your appearance at the Gallaudet University commencement last May. You inspired deaf people all over the country by your appearance and your wonderful commencement address.

Go ahead.

The President. Well, the honor was mine. I was very inspired by the students and their dreams. I also want to say how very proud I am of the strong support we have been receiving from the deaf and disabled communities on health care reform.

Go ahead.

Dr. Anderson. Great. Yes, we very much care about improving health care services, and we are so glad that you have taken the lead in advocating for health care reform.

Hopefully, you will also be able to remind health care providers of how important it is that they be sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities for health care services and for access to reasonable accommodations. I am very inspired by your hard work and will do all I can to support your efforts.

The President. Well, of course, I will be sensitive to those things. And I think you well understand that the only way we can extend those benefits and opportunities to the disabled community is to cover all Americans. If we do that, we will be able to contain costs and empower disabled Americans to work and to live to the fullest of their abilities.

Let me say, also, before we close this conversation, how pleased I am that the ADA is working and giving us things like this telephone relay system. It's a great tribute to the work that millions of disabled Americans have done.

I want to make a special note of the work that your wife Karen has done and the help

she gave to our campaign in 1992 and our efforts to reach out for all Americans.

Go ahead.

Dr. Anderson. Great. My wife is here with me, and she's grinning from ear to ear. She enjoyed the opportunity to serve you and work in your campaign.

I also want to say, yes, the ADA is working very well. And it will work even better in the years to come. Our conversation this morning is a living example of how well ADA is working.

Go ahead.

The President. I want to thank you again for all you have done to make the ADA work for people in their everyday lives.

It's been a real pleasure to talk with you today. One of my aides told me that your son, Jamal, and I have a picture together that you would like me to autograph. I'd be glad to do that, and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Signing off.

Dr. Anderson. Great. Many, many thanks for this opportunity. Thank you, again, and you have a great day, too.

Bye bye.

The President. Goodbye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. The telephone conversation used a new relay service technology which allows the deaf to communicate by telephone.

Remarks on the Fourth Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 27, 1994

The President. Thank you very much. It is wonderful to see this sea of Americans here at the White House today. Senator Harkin and I were back there talking, and he was beaming because he had so much to do with the ADA. And I was listening to the First Lady and to Tipper and to the Vice President give their fine speeches, and they were all so good, I was wishing I could just sit there and not have to say anything—[laughter]—enjoy the day and welcome you here.

I thank especially the Members of Congress who are here: Congressman Hoyer,

Congressman Fish, Congressman Major Owens, and Congressman Goodling. Thank you for being here, sirs. Two who are not here because they're on the Hill working, I want to mention, Senator Kennedy and Congressman Jack Brooks who worked so hard on this. I thank former Congressman Tony Coelho who's done a magnificent job as Chair of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disability. I thank all the people who are here on this stage. And I want to say something today about the spirit of bipartisanship. I will say more later, but I would remind you that it would be wrong for the day to go by without pointing out that this bill was signed into law by my Republican predecessor, President Bush, and I thank him for doing that.

I'd also like to introduce three young people from Gallaudet University who are here who are part of one of our administration's most important initiatives and an illustration of why we have to keep working to open the doors of opportunity to all Americans. They are Jennifer Nasukiewicz, Amy Hopkins, and Madelaine Frederickson. I would ask them to stand. [Applause] They are completing their training to be participants in the first class of our national service program, AmeriCorps. Beginning this September, they will be part of 20,000 young Americans who will be working to help to reclaim our sense of national community. They'll be working to help reclaim the natural beauty of the Chesapeake Bay. And together, they'll be working to revolutionize our sense of what we can do together. And in return, they'll get a little bit of help to continue their education.

You know, as the Vice President said, when we went across this country and sought the opportunity to serve here, our slogan was, "Putting People First." What that meant to me was pretty simple as we hurtle toward the next century. As we come to the end of the cold war, we owe it to our people to do some basic things: first of all, to try to create a world of greater peace and prosperity; that's what we've been about here the last 2 days with the King of Jordan and the Prime Minister of Israel; second, to restore the American economy; third, to rebuild our American community with stronger commu-